

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing polymer powder from an aqueous polymer dispersion with water-soluble compounds, the fraction of such compounds being smaller than that of said aqueous polymer dispersion and being based on the polymer present in the form of polymer particles insoluble in water, which comprises:

subjecting the aqueous polymer dispersion to membrane filtration in a first step of the process; and to

spray drying in a subsequent second step of the process.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process according to claim 1, wherein the polymer has impact-modifying properties in transparent polyvinyl chloride compositions.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the aqueous polymer dispersion is subjected to membrane filtration until the content of the water-soluble substances is \leq 3% by weight, based on the polymer present in the form of polymer particles insoluble in water.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process according to claim 3, wherein the aqueous polymer dispersion is subjected to membrane filtration until the content of the water-soluble substances is \leq 1% by weight, based on the polymer present in the form of polymer particles insoluble in water.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process according to any of claims 1 to 4 claim 1, wherein the spray drying of the aqueous polymer dispersion takes place in the

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presence of from 0.01 to 10 parts by weight of an inorganic antiblocking agent with a average particle size of from 0.001 to 20 μm , based on 100 parts by weight of the polymer present in the form of polymer particles insoluble in water.